



Rear view of Mount Vernon in winter

# AMERICAN HISTORIC HOMES

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THE MENTOR • DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY • SERIAL No. 77

## MENTOR GRAVURES

THE JUMEL MANSION, NEW YORK CITY • MONTICELLO, VIRGINIA • THE PICKERING HOUSE, SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS • THE HERMITAGE, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE • WESTOVER, VIRGINIA • MOUNT VERNON, VIRGINIA

**F**ROM its earliest settlement America has been a country of homes. Much of "the pursuit of happiness," one of the cornerstones of the Declaration of Independence, has taken place within the walls of cottage and mansion. No people have a greater love of home and so much sentiment for the "old homestead." When, traveling in a foreign country, an American comes unexpectedly upon the Stars and Stripes gracefully undulating in the breeze, he thinks not of his country's institutions and history, but of his own *home* beyond the sea,—the modest white cottage shadowed by the sentinel maples; the house on the village street behind the row of elms; the ancient red brick mansion with white portico on some sleepy southern river, where the birds sing all day and the fireflies sparkle at nightfall; the handsome modern villa on lake, or sea-shore, or mountain slope, with its fine lawns and gardens of choice flowers; the stately house in town; or even the few rooms in an apartment house. Elegant or simple, rich or poor, it is all the same,—the flag conjures up

the picture of *home*, and awakens all the sweet and sad associations, sentiments, and emotions.

There is every reason why the house should have been the focus for American life and interests. In the struggling days of the Colonies the house was not only a place of shelter and a stronghold from the attacks of Indians and wild beasts, but the gathering place for festivities and reunions; and, as time wore on and prosperity increased stately mansions in which hospitality was dispensed on a large scale multiplied throughout the country, and the house became the scene of brilliant entertainments, where the arts and graces of life were often beautifully exhibited.



Courtesy of P. W. French

DRAWING ROOM, WESTOVER

### WESTOVER

No house in America is more expressive of graceful living than Westover, the home of the Byrds of Virginia. This is realized from the moment one passes through the artistic wrought-iron gates, almost worthy of Tijou, designer of those at Hampton Court Palace. Then the red brick house with its white trimmings, surrounded by lawns, gardens, and masses of honeysuckle and roses, plainly shows that it was the residence of an aristocratic family. Illustrious guests were entertained at Westover; but interest centers in the witty and accomplished William Byrd and his beautiful daughter Evelyn, whose portrait with her flowered hat in her lap expresses a gentle melancholy that accords with her romance for an English nobleman.



Courtesy of P. W. French

LIBRARY, WESTOVER

frowned upon by her father. She died of a broken heart in 1737, at the age of twenty-nine. At a later period the Marquis de Chastellux ('shaht-loo') and Benedict Arnold were guests there, and it is said that Cornwallis stabled his horses in the nursery.

Westover was, like many other homes on the James, the York, and the Rappahannock rivers, a center for all that was best and brightest in Virginia.

## THE HOME OF WASHINGTON

Virginia also possesses the most famous house in America,—Mount Vernon.

In 1743 Lawrence Washington, on his return from serving under Admiral Vernon at Cartagena, married the daughter of William Fairfax of Belvoir and took her to a neighboring estate, which he named Mount Vernon



RECEPTION HALL, MONTICELLO



MONTICELLO—The Home of Thomas Jefferson

for the hero of Porto Bello. The house was two stories high, with four rooms on each floor and dormer windows in the gambrel roof. There was a porch at the entrance, and at each end a chimney.

George Washington spent much time there. His half-brother's naval and military guests fired his ambition, and there his dreams of entering the British navy were nearly realized. His luggage was on a British man-of-war in the Potomac, when his mother's tears dissuaded him. Destiny had reserved him for another career. The death of Lawrence

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SHIRLEY, VIRGINIA

The home of the famous Carter family

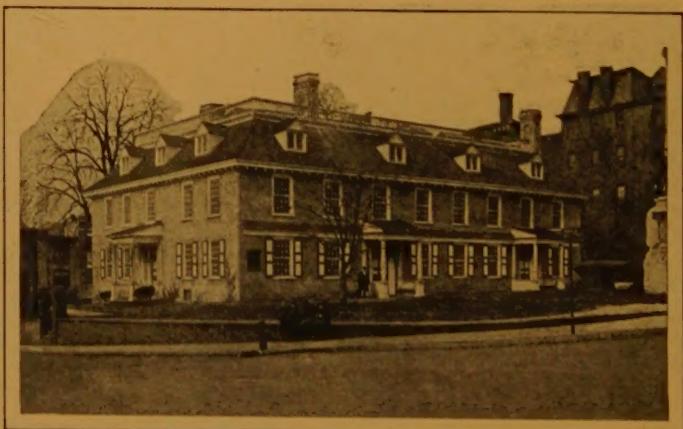
expected arrival of the master after nine years' absence, accompanied by Colonel Humphreys and Billy, his body servant, having left Count de Rochambeau and Marquis de Chastellux to follow them in the morning, put Mount Vernon in a flutter. Callers flocked; and when General Washington left for Yorktown he took as his aide-de-camp young Custis—who returned nevermore. It was a happy Christmas Eve when he arrived in 1783. The house was full of guests. One of the young women, Miss Lewis of Fredericksburg, wrote home, "I must tell you what a charming day I spent with Mama and Sally. The General and Madame came home on Christmas Eve—and such a racket the Servants made; for they were glad of their coming. Three handsome young officers came with them. All Christmas afternoon people came to pay their respects and duty. Among them were stately dames and gay young women. The General seemed very happy, and Mistress Washington was making everything as agreeable as possible for everybody."

The general now began to improve his home, and Mount Vernon assumed its present appearance in time for a Christmas celebration

Washington in 1752 left George the owner of Mount Vernon at the age of twenty.

To Mount Vernon he returned to rest and recover from the illfated Braddock expedition; to Mount Vernon he took his bride; and to Mount Vernon his thoughts turned with longing in the dark days of the Revolution.

In 1781 the unex-



THE PHILLIPSE MANOR HOUSE, YONKERS, N. Y.

Built in 1682, by Frederick Phillipse, the richest man in New Amsterdam. The staircase was brought from Holland. The house was for years the City Hall of Yonkers, but it is now a Historical Museum.

in 1785. The house was made ninety-five feet long and thirty deep, with a colonnade twelve feet wide. The eight square columns, twenty-five feet high, topped by a light and elegant balustrade, of a pattern suggesting Chippendale fretwork, and the graceful, airy cupola, were also added at this period. Porticos were thrown out at the ends, and a delightfully curved and roofed arcade was made to connect both sides of the house. The gardens and shrubbery also received great attention.

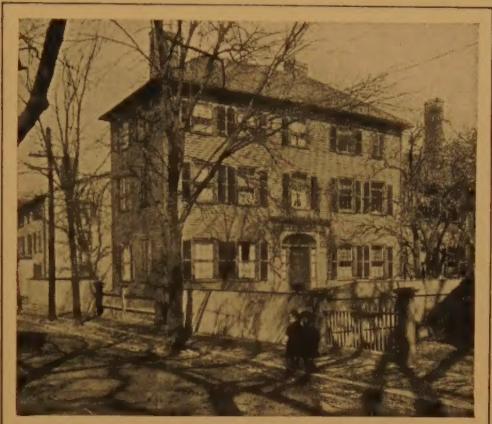
It was there that Marquis de Lafayette, for whom Washington had come to have deep affection, spent several happy days—and it was there that Lafayette came again in 1825 to visit the tomb of his friend.

Washington's room, preserved as when he breathed his last, makes his personality felt throughout the house; and there is a solemn atmosphere about the room on the floor above, to which Mrs. Washington retired after the general's death, with the window commanding a view of his tomb.

The rooms and garden paths are filled with shadows, no one of which has added more romance than Eleanor Custis, Mrs. Washington's granddaughter, a noted belle and beauty. Young Lafayette, son of the marquis, with his tutor, spent much time here also, and every traveler of note paid a visit to General Washington.

#### THE HOME OF ANDREW JACKSON

When Aaron Burr visited Andrew Jackson's home in Tennessee in 1805 the Hermitage was little more than a blockhouse. Jackson settled there in 1804. After his return from the Seminole War in 1819 he built the present Hermitage. Its simplicity astonished Lafayette when he visited Jackson in 1825. In that year a visitor would be met at Nashville by the general's carriage, drawn by four gray horses, with negro servants in



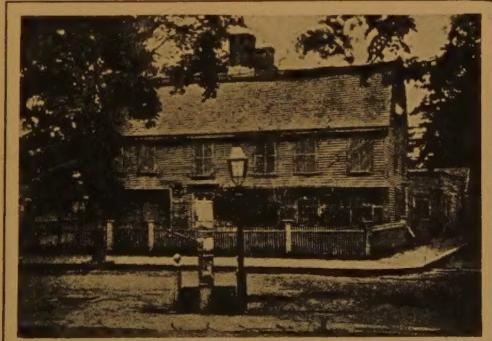
HAWTHORNE HOUSE, SALEM, MASS.

Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote "The Scarlet Letter" and "The Snow Image" here. His study was the front room on the third floor

It was there that Lafayette came again in

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Courtesy of the Essex Institute  
WITCH HOUSE, SALEM, MASS.

As it was in 1854. A drug store extends out in front now. Part of the house was built before 1674. It is said to have been the scene of some of the famous Salem witchcraft trials



CABOT HOUSE, SALEM, MASS.

Built in 1748. This house was the birthplace of Mary Endicott, who was married to Joseph Champlain, the renowned British statesman

moreover, as the visitors of 1825 behind the times. There was little with other American homes; but Jackson was a prince of hospitality, and the poor, belated peddler was as welcome as the most distinguished guest.

#### JEFFERSON AND MONTICELLO

Monticello is Jefferson. He lives there still in spirit. One can almost hear the strains of his violin, see the enthusiastic amateur astronomer sweeping the heavens with his telescope from the top of the

blue livery with brass buttons, glazed hats, and silver bands. After a drive of eleven miles the carriage entered the iron gate, rolled through an alley of trees, and swept in front of a two-story building with a white wooden veranda supported by heavy pillars. Passing through the hall, the visitor stepped upon another veranda, with portico looking upon a pleasant garden with gravelled paths and flowerbeds. Negro cabins scattered about the grounds informed him that he was in the land of slavery; a land, remarked, that was thirty years life in the Hermitage in comparison



JEREMIAH PAGE HOUSE, DANVERS, MASS.

Built in 1754. Just before the Revolution, to show his opposition to the tax on tea, Jeremiah Page ordered that no tea be drunk under his roof. Therefore his wife gave a tea party on the roof, thus obeying the letter of her husband's order, yet gratifying her desires

dome, or meet him walking on the terrace early in the morning.

The history of Monticello begins with a snowy night in January, 1772, when Jefferson and his bride arrived late, to find the fires out and the servants gone to their quarters. "The horrible dreariness of such a house at the end of such



ENDICOTT HOUSE, DANVERS, MASS.

Built about 1800

## A M E R I C A N H I S T O R I C H O M E S

a journey," says his daughter, Mrs. Randolph, "I have often heard both relate. They soon found a bottle of wine on a shelf behind some books, and, having refreshed themselves with its contents, startled the silence of the night with song and merry laughter."

Monticello had just been completed, and Jefferson began to adorn the building and the grounds. There he lived happily until his wife's health failed. Then he resigned his post as governor of Virginia, and for four months never left her side. The sorrow that visited Monticello was not lifted for years, until Jefferson returned from France in 1794 to enjoy it with its fond associations and the new life that his three grandchildren brought into the house.



THE CRAGIE HOUSE, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

While in Cambridge, Washington made his headquarters here. The house was the home of the poet Longfellow and is now owned by his daughter

time and tourists besides must have been a tax; yet all were welcome. Even the Hessians were freely admitted when four thousand captives were sent to Charlottesville in 1779.

Every traveler left testimony to Jefferson's charming entertainment. The Marquis de Chastellux made a visit in 1782, and said the days passed like minutes. Jefferson was most happy in the visit of Lafayette in 1825. He was waiting,



THE WHIPPLE HOUSE, IPSWICH, MASS.

Built in 1650. One of the best specimens of seventeenth century homes in America

The sorrow that visited Monticello was

enjoyed it with its fond associations and the new life that his three grandchildren brought into the house. Jefferson made Monticello the wonder of Virginia. He not only brought handsome furniture and works of art from France, but many ideas with regard to house decoration and landscape gardening, and imported Italians to do the ornamental work. In 1802 Monticello was considered finished: it had been thirty years in building. Fifty guests at a

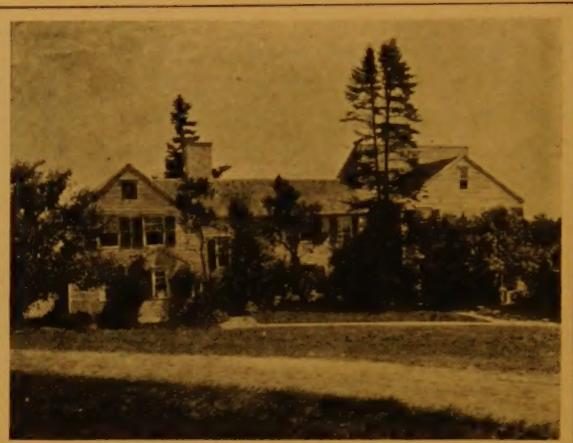


DOROTHY QUINCY MANSION, QUINCY, MASS.

Built in 1636. Now the home of the Massachusetts Colonial Dames

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in the old southern style, on the portico to receive the distinguished guest, who arrived with an escort of one hundred and twenty mounted men. They burst into tears as they fell into each other's arms. Among the four hundred men who witnessed this scene there was not a dry eye. It was fitting that Jefferson should have died in the house



WENTWORTH HOUSE, PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

Built in 1750. In this house Governor Wentworth married Martha Hilton

he so dearly loved. He died in 1826 on the day that he did so much to make memorable, July 4. His tomb at Monticello bears, according to his request, a statement that he was the author of the Declaration of Independence.

## THE HOME OF ROGER MORRIS

A handsome New York country seat was that of Colonel Roger Morris on



THE WARNER HOUSE, PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

This house was built in 1718. The bricks were brought over from Holland

Harlem Heights. Colonel Morris came to America with General Braddock. He married the heiress, Mary Phillipse, an old flame of George Washington's. Life was conducted there with elegance and style until the house was confiscated at the beginning of the Revolution. After the battle of Long Island (August 27, 1776) Washington occupied



KITTREDGE HOUSE, NORTH ANDOVER, MASS.

Built in 1728

the Morris house for several weeks. Soon after his arrival the battle of Harlem Heights was fought (September 16, 1776); and there Washington prepared his despatches for Congress. From its balcony, too, he doubtless watched the great fire of New York lighting the sky and river with its vivid glow, ten miles away.

### AARON BURR AND MADAM JUMEL

On October 29 Washington removed to Kingsbridge, and the British took possession. First Sir Henry Clinton occupied it as headquarters, and then Baron von Knyphausen, the Hessian general. After the Revolution the mansion was a tavern (Calumet Hall), and after passing through various hands became in 1810 the property of Stephen Jumel, a French merchant, who had married the handsome Eliza Bowen in 1804. Here the Jumels lived in style, bringing much beautiful furniture from France, and entertaining distinguished guests, among whom were Lafayette and Joseph Bonaparte. After the death of her husband Madam Jumel became infatuated with Aaron Burr; though there seems to have been little romance on his side. They were married there. The house was well known to Aaron Burr; for thither (in September, 1776), he took a rear detachment from New York, when they were enthusiastically welcomed by the troops who had given them up as lost.

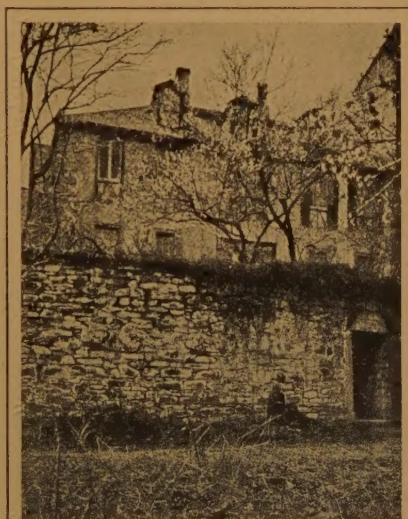
Although there still lingers some atmosphere of the early nineteenth century, the Revolutionary period claims the chief interest, because the greater personalities and the heroic deeds that were planned within its walls blot out the smaller ones, like the double writings on old parchments. The house is a beautiful example of eighteenth century architecture.



Courtesy of Dodd, Mead & Co.

#### VAN CORTLANDT MANOR HOUSE, CROTON POINT, N. Y.

Originally a blockhouse built by Governor Dongan in 1681. Bought by Stephanus Van Cortlandt in 1697. It is still in possession of the family



Courtesy of Dodd, Mead & Co.

#### CARLYLE HOUSE, ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Built in 1752. It rests upon an old fort. Gen. Braddock was entertained here in 1755, and George Washington was a frequent guest

## THE PICKERING HOUSE

No American town contains so many examples of ancient houses as Salem. The Pickering house on Broad Street is particularly interesting, because of its quaint architecture, its fine preservation, and the fact that the Pickering family has lived in it from 1651 to the present day. Still standing on its green lawn, amid flowers and shrubs, and containing much old furniture, it tells a continuous story of social life, flowing quietly during some generations, and again interrupted during others with exciting scenes in the piping times of fife and drum. Brave Pickering sallied forth to fight against the Indians in King Philip's war; and there Timothy Pickering (1745-1829), leader of the Salem patriots, was born. From its door he went to command the troops that held North Bridge in 1774, and from there he went with his regiment of Salem men to join General Washington in New Jersey; and from there he went in 1803 to be United States senator and leader of the Federal Party. There, too, General Washington visited him.

The Pickering House is of the type known as the "garrison house," built on heavy oak frames, with the second story leaning over the first, and sometimes the attic projecting over that again. Sharp-peaked gables broke up the roof somewhat fantastically, and the small windows were lighted with diamond-shaped panes, heavily leaded.

## THE WITCH HOUSE

The Witch House was originally of the style of architecture which Hawthorne made so famous in his "The House of the Seven Gables." It was the home of Roger Williams, who as teacher and pastor saw many people with their troubles, until he had troubles of his own and was banished in 1635. Thence he fled to the shores of Narragansett Bay in the depth of winter. The house then became the property of Captain Richard Davenport, who conveyed it with two acres in 1674 to Jonathan Corwin, one of the judges in the witchcraft mania of 1692.



MORVEN, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

The home of Richard Stockton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. It was built about the beginning of the eighteenth century, and it has remained in possession of the Stockton family ever since.

Private examinations and grand jury proceedings were held in the southeast room, where the poor, frightened people—men, women, and little children—were accused of having signed compacts with Satan, of drinking blood, and of being able to transform themselves. From there they were sent to jail and Gallows Hill. Business was suspended in Salem, terror was on every face, and fear was in every heart. No wonder that when twilight fell the streets were deserted, and none cared to look at the

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little, lozenge-paned windows of the house on Essex Street, dimly reddened from the candles within, where the judge looked over his lists of condemned and suspected. Who would be the next?

All picturesqueness vanished with the alterations of 1746 and 1772; but the dark cloud hovers over the Witch House, and its history makes it a landmark.

## FINE COLONIAL HOMES

I have here taken account of a few of the most interesting historic homes of America. There are many others, varied in character, and in their associations. It is astonishing to realize what a number of attractive old homes still exist. Our people began very early to build houses that were intended not only for comfortable but for elegant living. The colonists brought education and refinement with them: they were pioneers in circumstance, but not in taste and habit. As early as 1632, twelve years after the Mayflower landed and four years after John Endicott arrived at Salem with the Massachusetts Bay Company, John Winthrop found it necessary to say to his deputy that he did "not well to bestow too much cost about wainscoting and adorning his house in the beginning of a plantation, both in regard of the public charges and example." Winthrop's advice was, however, not heeded, because records show that "great houses" multiplied.

Americans may well be proud of their colonial homesteads, and of the life and society that they represent.



THE DINING ROOM OF ASHLAND

The home of Henry Clay

## SUPPLEMENTARY READING

### SOME COLONIAL MANSIONS AND THOSE WHO LIVED IN THEM

*By Thomas Allen Glenn.*

(First series, 1897.)

### SOME COLONIAL MANSIONS AND THOSE WHO LIVED IN THEM

*By Thomas Allen Glenn.*

(Second series, 1900.)

### COUNTRY HOMES OF FAMOUS AMERICANS

*By Oliver Bronson Capen.*

### BARONS OF THE POTOMAC AND THE RAPPAHANNOCK

*By Moncure D. Conway.*

### HISTORIC FIELDS AND MANSIONS OF MIDDLESEX

*By Samuel Adams Drake.*

### HISTORIC MANSIONS AND HIGHWAYS AROUND BOSTON (new edition)

*By Samuel Adams Drake.*

### QUINCY: ITS PATRIOTS; THEIR DEEDS, HOMES AND DESCENDANTS

*By Daniel Munro Wilson.*

### HISTORIC HOMES OF NEW ENGLAND

*By Mary H. Northend.*

### HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF AMERICA

*By Esther Singleton.*

### HISTORIC LANDMARKS OF AMERICA

*By Esther Singleton.*

### COLONIAL MANSIONS OF MARYLAND AND DELAWARE

*By John Martin Hammond.*

# THE OPEN LETTER

No one can look over these pictures of old American homes without being struck by the variety of architectural styles revealed in the houses. The pictures were not chosen, in this case, however, for their architectural interest. The Mentor will publish an article later on devoted to the architecture of American homes. Miss



ARLINGTON, VA., Home of Robert E. Lee

Singleton made her selection of subjects with the thought first and foremost of their historic associations.

★ ★ ★  
It is interesting, therefore, to note that these houses show as wide a range in historical as they do in architectural interest. The two pictures printed together on this page serve well to illustrate this fact. Side by side we show the imposing mansion in which General Robert E. Lee lived, and the humble house which John Howard Payne immortalized with his poem, "Home, Sweet Home."

★ ★ ★

What a contrast—Arlington, the home of a general who won immortality in war; the other the rose embowered cottage of a poet who sang of peace!

The Arlington home appeals to us as a most fitting residence for the distinguished family of Lees—a structure so stately in style that, without any alteration, it fills impressively its present place as a public memorial building; while John Howard

Payne's cottage in East Hampton is just such a simple structure as the human heart yearns for when it feels the call of home.

And yet, though "Home, Sweet Home" may be called today a humble cottage, it is in fact a very staunch and sturdy house. When it was constructed in 1700 it was considered a superior piece of workmanship and a great credit to its builder. An interior room of "Home, Sweet Home" is shown in The Mentor No. 62—devoted to "American Colonial Furniture"—and a description of the quaint old house is given there.

★ ★ ★

Arlington, is associated in its history with two celebrated families—the Lees and the Washingtons. The house was built by George Washington Parke Custis, Washington's step-grandson. In 1802, after the breaking up of the Washington family at Mount Vernon, Mr. Custis began the construc-



HOME, SWEET HOME, East Hampton, Long Island

tion of this beautiful mansion on the edge of a bluff 200 feet above the Potomac. As a boy Robert E. Lee had frequently visited Arlington, and in 1831, when he was a lieutenant in the United States Army and twenty-four years of age, he married Mr. Custis' only daughter. Aside from its historic associations, Arlington has always been distinguished for its classic beauty. Before the Civil War it was considered the finest piece of architecture of all the mansions in the South.



**M**OST of the stories that have been given to the world concerning the Jumel Mansion and Madam Jumel may be classed as pure fable. A great many stories have grown up around the personality of Madam Jumel; but many of these had their foundation in the mind of that lady herself. It has been proved beyond dispute that

during the latter part of her life she was slightly deranged, and although she really believed the anecdotes that she told, their origin was purely imaginary.

The Jumel Mansion has had a varied and deeply interesting history. On June 29, 1763, what was later to be known as the Morris Farm, then located above New York City, was purchased by James Carroll from the heirs of a man named Kiersten. The next year a distinguished English officer named Roger Morris resigned his commission in the army and retired to private life. He had married Mary Phillipse, who is reported to have been at one time an old flame of George Washington's. Morris probably bought the Carroll farm in 1765, and soon after began to build the mansion there. He was probably familiar with the farm, as he must have seen it often in his travels from New York City to the Phillipse Manor House at Yonkers, where he had married Mary. He picked out the highest hill on the property on which to build his house, and from it on all sides a fine view could be obtained. The Morrises had also a town house: If this house were still standing, it would be right under the wall of the new Custom House in New York City.

When the Revolution broke out Roger Morris sailed for England, as he was a member of the King's Council. Another reason is probably that he did not wish to take an active side in the struggle that was about to begin. This was on May 4, 1775. He left his wife to take care of the property. Later the entire farm was confiscated by the State of New York.

On Sunday, September 15, 1776, George Washington took up his residence in the Jumel Mansion, using it as the headquarters of the American army. The next day occurred the battle of Harlem Heights. Those were busy days for the old house. Court martials were continuously sitting there; a commission arrived from Congress to inquire into the conduct of the war; a dinner was given to Colonels Silliman and Douglas; and two representa-

tives of the Cayuga Indians arrived to consult with the leaders of the army. On October 18 the fighting began at Pells Point, and Washington left the house. One month later, on November 16, the Heights were captured by the British.

From June 14 to November 9 the Jumel Mansion was the headquarters of the British army under Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton. For parts of the next two or three years it was the headquarters of the Hessian armies.

After the Revolution was over, in 1784, the Morris Farm was sold by the Commissioners of Forfeiture to John Berrian and Isaac Ledyard. Six years later, on July 10, President Washington gave a dinner there to the members of his cabinet and their wives. The property then passed through various hands until 1810, when on March 10 a man named Parkinson sold the house and 36 acres of land to Stephen Jumel, a French merchant, who had settled in New York City. In 1815 the Jumels sailed for France, leaving tenants in the house. Madam Jumel returned later, and, after the death of her husband, became the wife of Aaron Burr, who, almost beyond doubt, married her to get possession of her money.

After the death of Madam Jumel in 1865 the property descended to her niece, Eliza Jumel Chase, who later became Mrs. Caryl and resided at Yonkers, New York. In 1887 she sold the house and part of the property to Seth Milliken, a New York merchant, for \$90,000. Seven years later he sold the house and grounds, as they stand at present, to General Ferdinand P. Earle. The Earles made a number of changes in the house, one of which necessitated the removal of a ceiling in the room that was Washington's office for the purpose of converting it into a studio.

In 1903 the property was sold by Mrs. Earle to the city of New York for \$235,000. It is now carefully kept up as a public museum, in charge of the Washington Headquarters Association, founded by the Daughters of the American Revolution.



**T**HOMAS JEFFERSON, third president of the United States, made himself so generally loved throughout the country that he won for himself the title, "friend of the people." No less beloved today is the home of Jefferson, beautiful Monticello in Virginia. Jefferson inherited his father's farm of Shadwell in Albemarle County, that state.

The farm consisted of 1,900 acres of rolling and hilly land, and on it was one high rounded hill from whose summit could be obtained a wide view of the country about. When he was still at college Jefferson decided to build a home on this hilltop. He called this place Monticello, which in Italian means "little mountain."

He began building the house in 1765, and it was mostly completed within a few years. In 1772, when he was 29 years old, he married a pretty young widow of 23, and carried her off through a blinding snowstorm to Monticello. Though the servants had retired, not expecting them on such a night, they were quickly aroused and a cheerful though belated welcome was prepared.

For twenty years the house remained incompletely. The reason for this was that Jefferson's abilities were needed for the service of his country and he could not devote himself to his home. He first served in the Virginia assembly, then was elected to Congress, was governor of Virginia for a time, and in 1782 was appointed one of the peace ambassadors to Great Britain from the colonies. He was then appointed minister to France, and following that became secretary of state in Washington's cabinet.

His wife died when still a young woman, leaving Jefferson with three little girls to take care of, and leaving a numbness in his heart that only many years could heal. He was elected president in 1800.

After his retirement from this office he lived for seventeen years at Monticello, which became a resort for all the great minds in the country. This keeping open house very nearly ruined Jefferson financially. He had to sell his library, which he had been collecting for over fifty years, and even the money thus obtained was

but a temporary relief. Some friends heard of his difficulties and raised \$18,000 to assist him. But he did not live long to enjoy the relief thus given; for on July 4, 1826, on the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, of which he is considered to have been the author, he quietly went to eternal rest.

Monticello is different from any of the other colonial houses of the South. It is more elaborate. Its exterior is a temple-like structure a story and a half high; about 35 feet wide by 70 feet deep. The central part of the house consists of a hall 35 feet square, a drawing room of the same width back of it, and the large porticos in front and rear. On each side of the central porticos are the wings. The total width of the building is 100 feet.

The house was probably designed mostly after Italian models. The eight-sided tower story was built for a billiard room; but when it was ready for use Jefferson discovered that the state government had passed a law prohibiting both private and public billiard rooms, so it was turned into a ballroom.

There are many interesting features about Monticello. Jefferson had no beds in the house; that is, all the beds were permanent parts of the building. In each room an alcove was built, and across it slats were laid upon which the beds were placed.

In 1828 the estate of Monticello was purchased by a Dr. Barclay. In 1830 Commodore Levy bought it. The Confederate Government confiscated the property later, and afterward it went back once more to the Levy family. The present plan is to maintain Monticello, under government ownership and direction, as a permanent museum.



**I**T is rare indeed in the history of famous homes that we read of a house being occupied by one family continuously from the time of its erection to the present day. This is one of the things that makes the Pickering House at Salem, Massachusetts, so interesting. From the time the house was built in 1660 to the present the

Pickering family have owned and occupied it. This is probably the oldest house now standing in Salem. Originally the building was of the usual New England type of seventeenth century colonial architecture, with peaked windows in the roof and a huge chimney. However, in 1850 some Gothic embellishments were added to the house, which did much to destroy its simple beauty.

In the large fireplace in the living room there was formerly a castiron fireback (that is, the rear wall of a fireplace) which was made by John Jenks at Saugus, Massachusetts, in the first iron foundry in America. This interesting fireback is now preserved in the museum of the Essex Institute at Salem. It has on it the date of the erection of the house, 1660, together with the initials of the first owners, John and Alice Pickering, "I. A. P."

In this house Timothy Pickering, the American politician, was born on July 17, 1745. He graduated from Harvard Col-

lege in 1763. He was an ardent patriot. During the Revolution he served as adjutant general and later as quartermaster general, and was also a member of the Board of War. After the war he settled in Philadelphia as a commission merchant.

When George Washington became president, he appointed Pickering post-master general, and, later, secretary of war. In December, 1795, he became secretary of state, and was reappointed to this position by John Adams, when he became president. He held various other political offices, which he filled ably. He died at Salem on January 29, 1829.

It was his son, John Pickering, who became a famous student of languages. He was born in 1777, and graduated from Harvard in 1796. He was an excellent lawyer, and wrote a great deal on law, and also on the languages of North American Indians. He also published an excellent dictionary of the Greek language. He died in 1846.



**T**HOUGH the things by which Andrew Jackson is known to the world are far removed from the farm, his success as a tiller of the soil and breeder of horses was more dear to him than all the achievements of his more active life. He was a soldier, lawyer, judge, and statesman; but closer to his heart was his life as a country gentleman. Andrew Jackson was the son of Irish parents who had emigrated to America. He was born on March 15, 1767. When he was 21 years old he moved to the frontier section of North Carolina, where he was made attorney general of the district. He married in 1791, and, shortly afterward, bought a large piece of land a few miles east of the settlement of Nashville, Tennessee. A few years later he sold part of this land, taking in payment the notes of a merchant in the East, and started a store. The eastern merchant became bankrupt, and Jackson, to pay for his merchandise, had to sell more of his land.

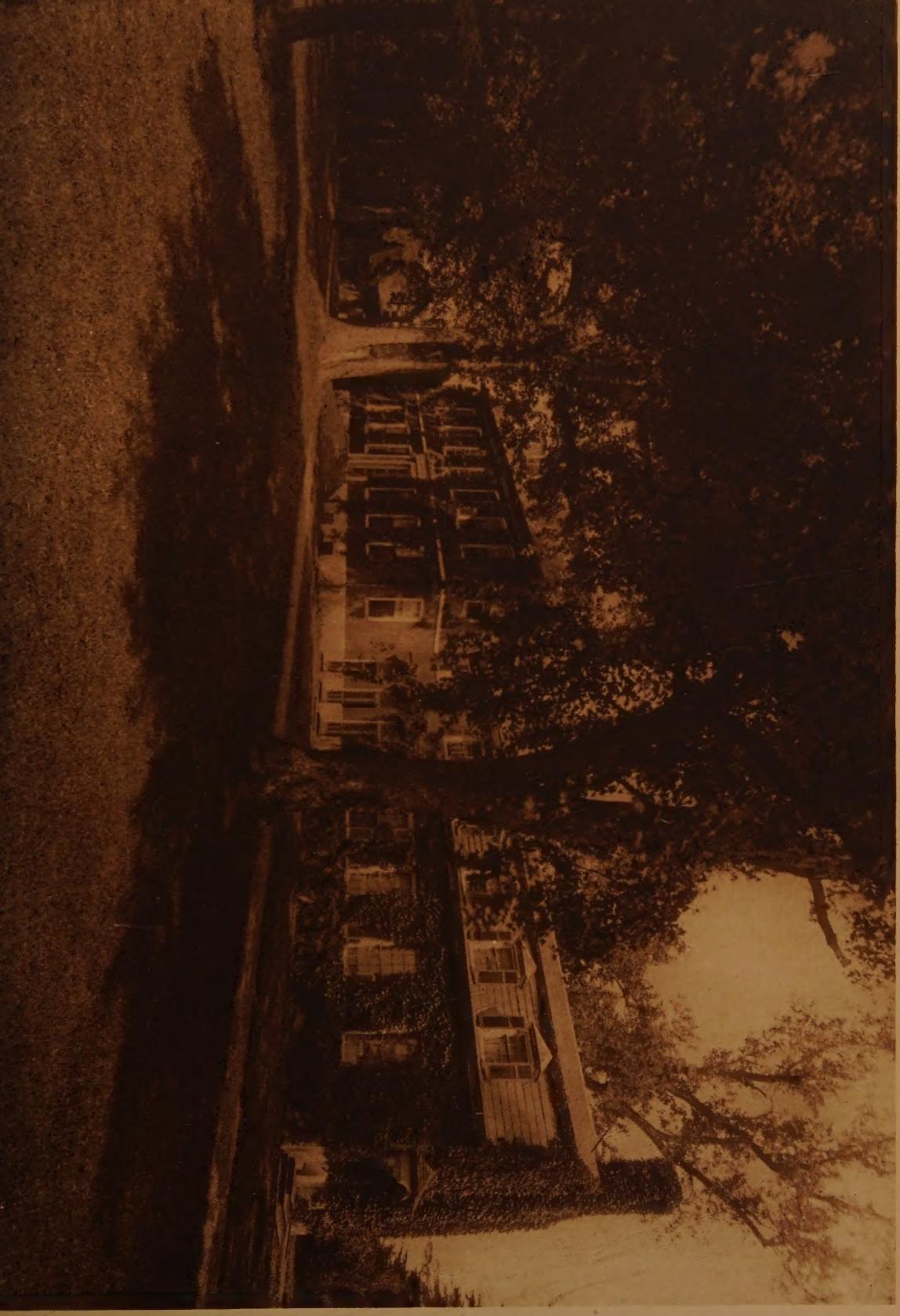
But this did not discourage a man of perseverance, and in 1804 he bought the Hermitage plantation and proceeded to give most of his time to farming. It was there that Jackson developed one of the most prosperous plantations of the South. War interrupted his plans, and later, as president, he was forced to neglect his farm to a great extent. But nevertheless it never failed him.

During Jackson's long absences from home Mrs. Jackson took charge of the

farm, and capably managed it. All the clothing used by the servants on the place was made there, with the exception of the hats. Each year after the annual cotton picking the darkies had a harvest celebration, and paraded to the house to the music of violin, banjo, and bones, singing and shouting with merriment. Mrs. Jackson died just before her husband became president, and, after that, he had to manage the plantation himself from Washington.

The building of the Hermitage was begun in 1819. It was built of bricks manufactured on the place. It was a mansion of fine colonial architecture. The original house was burned in 1836; but Jackson rebuilt it on the same foundations. The main part of the building is of two stories, the projecting roof in front and back being supported by large pillars. In 1845 Andrew Jackson died, and, for the next eleven years, his adopted son managed the Hermitage estate.

In 1889 the Ladies' Hermitage Association was formed for the purpose of preserving the Jackson home. They had a hard task; but their object was finally attained.



**W**ESTOVER, the home of the famous Byrd family of Virginia, stands for everything that is aristocratic, refined, and romantic in American colonial history. Many were the famous guests entertained beneath its hospitable roof. But the fame of the house rests chiefly upon the fame of the Byrd family. An Englishman by the

name of Sir John Paulet obtained the original grant of the plantation of Westover in 1622. Theodorick Bland was the next owner. The first American Byrd, William, was born in London in 1653, and settled in Virginia in 1674. He bought Westover from the Blands. His son, William Evelyn Byrd, succeeded him as proprietor. He was the most eminent of the Byrds, and it was his daughter, "the fair Evelyn," about whom the romantic story has grown up that touches the heart of all those that love a lover.

Evelyn was a beautiful woman, as can be seen from her portrait. She had a beautiful complexion and hands. Her dark curls, regular features, and broad forehead made for a countenance that was lovely, gentle, and winning.

In those days it was important for every young girl in society to be presented at court. In due time Evelyn was taken abroad and presented to the King of England. At London she met Charles Mordaunt, grandson of Lord Peterborough. Then began a love affair doomed to be blasted by parental objection. The father of the girl strongly objected to the match, and the fair Evelyn was brought back to Westover, her heart wounded and her hopes dead. Not long did she survive this bitter disappointment. The record reads simply, "Refusing all offers from other

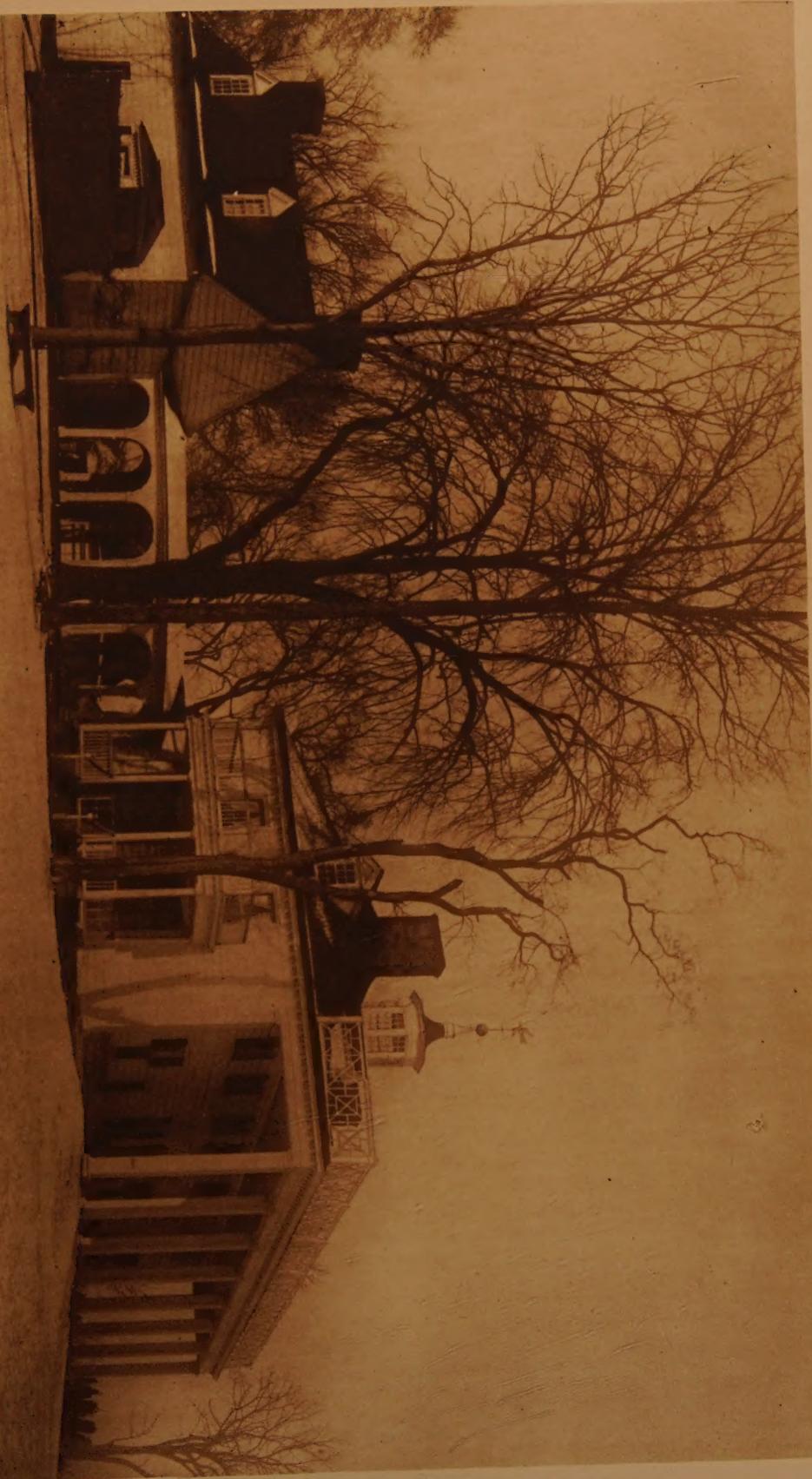
gentlemen, she died of a broken heart."

Westover is built of English brick, and consists of one large central house connected by corridors with smaller wings. The sloping lawn was defended against the wash of the current of the James River by a wall of massive masonry. The estate was so extensive that it was called a principality. Within the house were collected treasures brought from England and all the Continent.

The story of Westover is closely linked with the story of the Byrds. It is said that when Benedict Arnold landed at Westover, after going over to the English side, he made the wife of the third William Byrd prisoner in her room and ravaged the place.

She was the last of the Byrd family to occupy Westover; for when she died in 1814 the plantation was sold, and it passed through many hands in the next fifty years. It remained longest in the Selden family. It suffered severely during the Civil War, and the house was used as a headquarters and as a store-house for the Union army. After the war it was bought by Major A. H. Drewry, the husband of Miss Harrison, a member of the famous Harrison family.

Bright days have come to Westover. Under the present ownership the establishment is well maintained, and the land is fully cultivated.



**E**VERYONE knows Mount Vernon. It is hardly too much to say that the home of George Washington means as much to American people as the White House. But even so, no one can love Mount Vernon as did the First President himself. Covered with glory as the liberator of the colonies, showered with honor as leader of the

new republic, and beloved by all his fellow countrymen, Washington nevertheless preferred above all things to retire to his peaceful home at Mount Vernon and pursue the quiet life of a gentleman farmer.

The original house on the Washington estate was built in 1740, and was named Mount Vernon by Lawrence Washington, half-brother of George, to whom the property then belonged, in honor of Admiral Vernon, under whom he had served at Cartagena. George Washington inherited the property in 1754.

Washington twice enlarged the house at Mount Vernon; once in 1760, and again in 1785. When he returned to Mount Vernon after the Revolution he found that the house his brother Lawrence had built was too small for his family and for the entertaining of his numerous guests. He drew the plans for the alterations and for the arrangement of the grounds and flower gardens himself.

Mount Vernon is a spacious, hospitable looking mansion, about 95 feet long by 30 deep. The exterior is of wood, painted white, and cut to look like blocks of stone. Washington built along the front of the building, overlooking the Potomac, a great portico, and in front of this portico a gently sloping lawn leads to the steep bank that overhangs the river.

Washington led an ideal country life at Mount Vernon. He was altogether absorbed in his farming, and deeply interested in his flower gardens; but in addition to this he was a lover of the chase. The Mount Vernon fox hunts were important events in Fairfax County, and his stable of blooded hunters and pack of registered hounds were famous throughout the colonies.

In his flowers Washington took the deep personal interest of a sincere lover of

nature, and the flower garden remains today as nearly as possible as it was more than a century ago. But though he loved flowers, his time while at Mount Vernon was mostly occupied with the farms. When he first inherited the estate he began to grow tobacco; but with his shrewd business ability he saw that this was unsatisfactory, and soon began giving more attention to the raising of wheat. He also gave a great deal of time to the management of his sheep farm.

His estate at first consisted of 2,500 acres; but he gradually enlarged it to 8,000. There were overseers on each of the five farms into which the estate was divided, and under the overseers were about 150 slaves.

But although Washington, when he died in 1799, was one of the wealthiest Americans of his time, he did not make a great success of farming. One reason for this was the poor condition of the soil; but probably the correct one is that farming in those days had not been perfected to the scientific business that it is today. Another cause probably was that for about half of the forty-five years that Washington owned Mount Vernon he was away from home in the service of his country. Without his careful supervising eye upon them, the workers let the plantation shift for itself.

It was through the efforts of the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association of the Union that Washington's home has been restored and preserved. Miss Anne Pamela Cunningham in 1856 organized this society, which by 1860 had collected enough money to buy the estate for \$200,000. The property is now maintained by the fee of 25 cents paid by each of 80,000 or 90,000 people who visit the spot every year.